

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on December 1, 2003.

Claims 2-3, 10, 12 – 13, 17 – 18, and 21 are amended. Claims 1, 11, and 19 - 20 are canceled. No claims are added. As a result, claims 2 – 10, 12 – 18, and 21 - 26 are now pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

On March 12, 2003, Applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Form 1449, which included citation of the abstract of Quanfu Wei Chinese Patent No. 1049075. The PTO Form 1449 was returned without this reference being initialed by the Examiner as having been considered. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider this reference, and return a Form 1449 that is marked to indicate that this reference has been considered by the Examiner.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 11, 18, 19, 21-24 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rozman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,055,765).

Claims 1, 11, and 19 were cancelled, thereby mooted this basis of rejection of those claims.

Claim 18 was amended to incorporate the language of claim 20 (and intervening claim 19), which was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 18 is believed allowable, along with its directly or indirectly dependent claims 21-26, which include all of the language of claim 18, and are therefore also believed allowable.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this basis of rejection and allowance of these claims 1, 11, 18, 19, 21-24 and 26.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-10, 12-17, 20 and 25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten such claims in the manner indicated to be allowable (with the language of claim 20 and its intervening claim 19 included in claim 18), and respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6951 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.


Respectfully submitted,

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By his Representatives,

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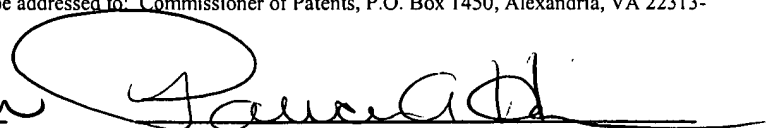
Date March 1, 2004

By 
Suneel Arora
Reg. No. 42,267

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 1st day of March, 2004.

Patricia A. Hultman

Name



Signature